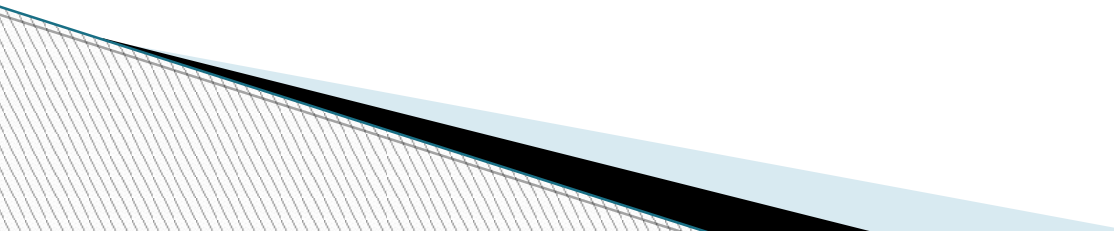


Child Protection Foundation Training



Procedures 300.50 Investigative Process

Core Competencies

- ▶ **Understand the primary actions required in the investigative process per 300.50**
 - ▶ **Understand and articulate the required timeframes in the investigative process**
 - ▶ **Apply critical thinking skills to the investigative process**
- 

Section 300.50 (a)

Timeframes

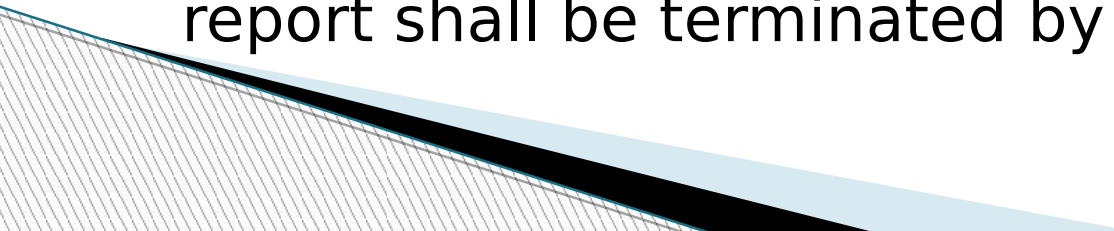
- ▶ 24 hours: in-person contact with child victim *and* examination of environment for inadequate shelter and environmental neglect
- ▶ 14 days—good faith report determination
- ▶ 45 days—Supervisor and CPS evaluate status of investigation and identify pending activities
- ▶ 55 days—CPS shall submit completed investigation and Final Determination to supervisor within 55 days.
- ▶ Supervisor shall return or approve investigation within 2 days of submission.
- ▶ 60 days—The investigation must have been approved or extended for good cause.

Good Faith Determination vs. Initial Unfounded

- ▶ “Formal investigation” refers to a “thorough investigation”; it may be either indicated or unfounded.
- ▶ Any good faith report should be a formal investigation.



Initial vs. Formal: Clarifying Expectations

- ▶ An initial investigation allows the investigator to have 14 days to determine if the report is a “Good Faith Report”.
 - ▶ When the supervisor and Child Protection Specialist determine that it is a Good Faith Report, the supervisor shall ensure that it is immediately documented in SACWIS that it is a formal investigation.
 - ▶ If a good faith determination does not exist, the report shall be terminated by day 14.
- 

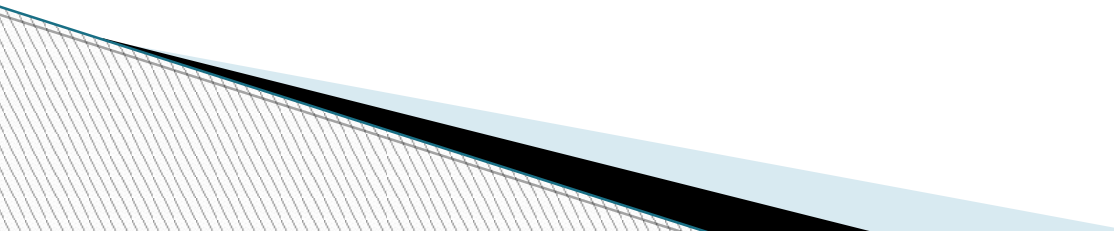
Good Faith Determination: Activity



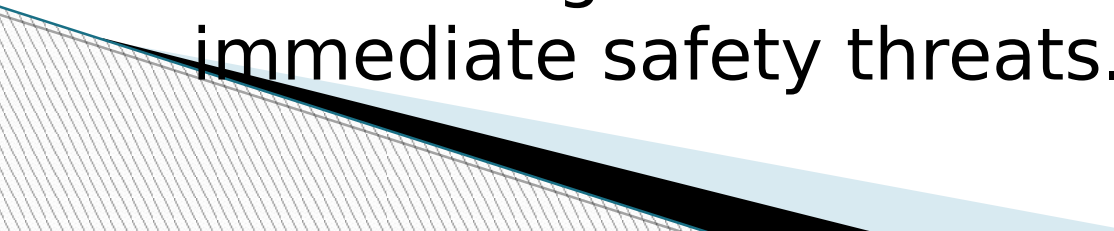
A Shift in Procedure and Practice



Gathering Evidence

- ▶ This section describes the procedures for gathering evidence to assess safety, make decisions, and support a final finding.
 - ▶ Procedures for gathering inculpatory and exculpatory evidence are identified here.
 - ▶ Gathering evidence is allegation specific and safety threat specific.
- 

Inculpatory and Exculpatory Evidence

- ❖ Inculpatory evidence lends to the finding of indicating a report.
 - ❖ Exculpatory is evidence that lends to unbounding of a report.
 - ❖ All evidence must be sought in the course of the investigation and then carefully analyzed and weighed when reaching the final finding.
 - ❖ The evidence documented must be relative to the allegation at issue as well as to any immediate safety threats.
- 

Assessing the Credibility of Evidence

Intent is to keep the focus on assessing evidence; not on indicating or unfounding!

- Corroborating Evidence
- Source of Information
- Direct Interest
- Basis of Knowledge

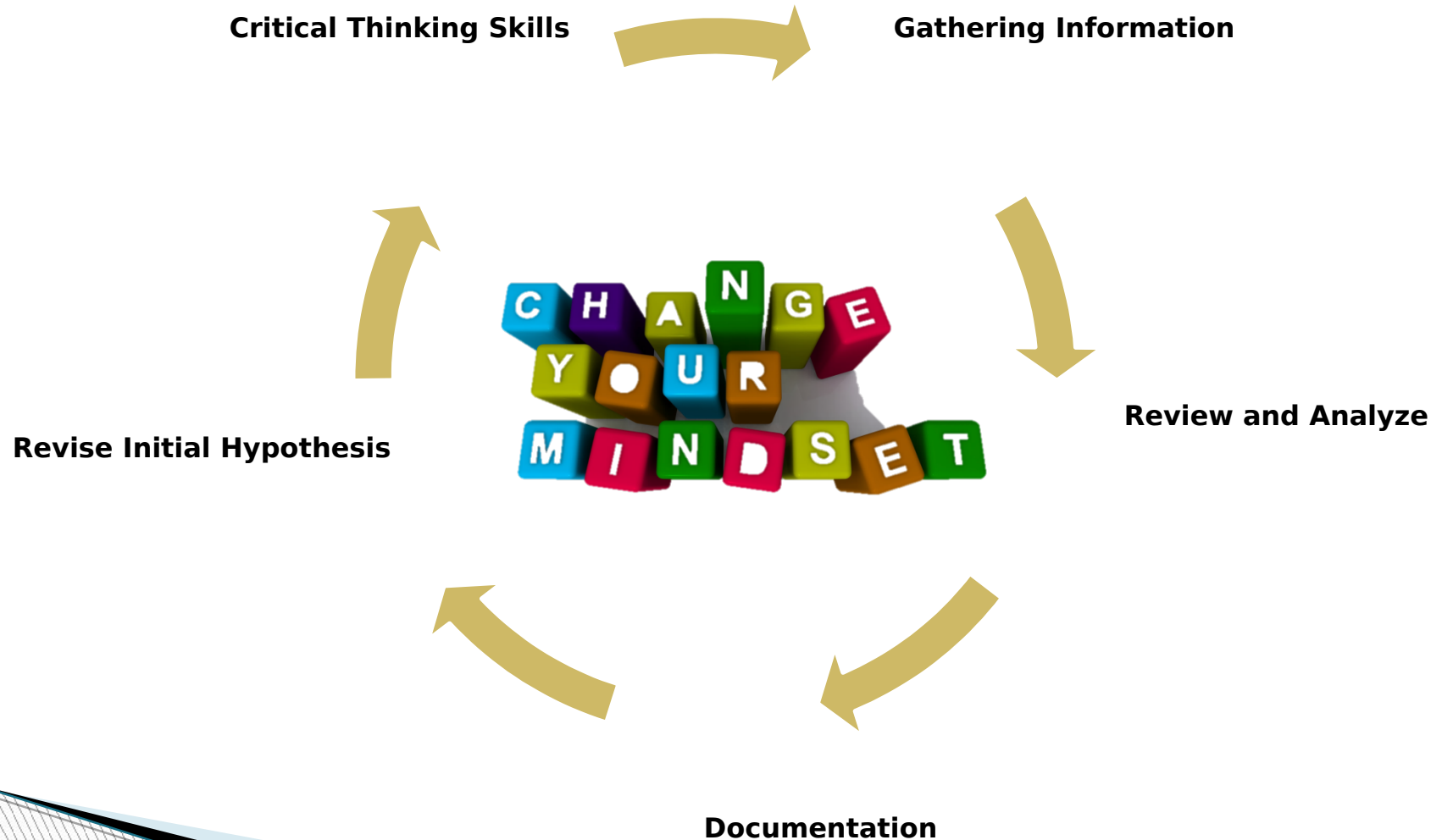


Factors Affecting the Credibility of Evidence of Professionals

- ▶ First-hand observation
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Specialization



Counteracting Biases



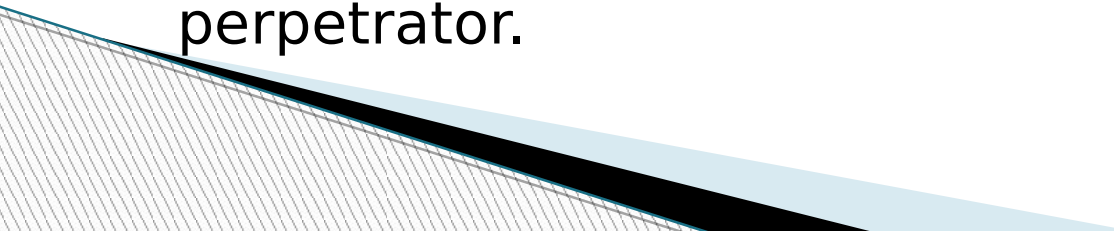
Personal Bias

Consider the possibility of bias related to:

- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Race
- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Sexual orientation
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Ethnic heritage



Good Faith Attempt

- ▶ Document reason attempt was unsuccessful
 - ▶ CPS shall take whatever steps are necessary to obtain current location of alleged child victim and proceed immediately to their location.
 - ▶ GFA must be made every 24 hours, including weekends and holidays.
 - ▶ Supervisor shall triage alerts for team.
 - ▶ CPS shall conduct interview away from parent and perpetrator.
- 

What To Do First?

- ▶ Call the Reporter?
- ▶ Law Enforcement?
- ▶ See the child(ren)?
- ▶ Review prior history?

